



THE

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3RD BRIGADE COMBT TEAM

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## 1st Cav's 3rd BCT Takes charge in Baghdad

Story and photo by Sgt. John Queen

**Baghdad** – The 1st Cavalry Division's 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team uncased its colors in Baghdad signifying the brigade's official transition of authority from the 1st Armor Division's 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT as it prepares to redeploy elsewhere in Iraq.

Instead of the usual pageantry of horse charges and blaring bugles the division is known for, this ceremony, was brief and low key with only the senior officers and noncommissioned officers of the brigade attending.

"This ceremony was important." Said Col. John M. Murray, the combat teams commander, "not only for the soldiers here in Iraq, but equally so for the families back at Fort Hood."

"We did this for the folks back home to let them know we are here and taking charge." Echoed Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Sellards, the Brigads Command Sgt. Maj.

With this transition of authority, the brigade will inherit the responsibilities from the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT of providing a safe and secure environment for the Karkh and Karadah districts in central Baghdad.

These districts, populated by nearly 625,000 people were once Ba'ath Party Military districts, and are now considered the heart of the city's economic system. In addition to residential, small business and financial areas, Karkh and Karadah also accommodate the Baghdad bus station, an International Bus station, Baghdad University and the Coalition Provisional Authority headquarters.



**Col. John M. Murray and Command Sgt. Major Chris Sellards free the brigade battle streamers in the foyer of their new headquarters in Baghdad.**

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

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Along with providing a secure environment, the 3<sup>rd</sup> BCT, with its attachments from the Arkansas and Washington State Army National Guard will also help to rebuild the countries infrastructure while at the same time hunt down terrorists who threaten to destroy it.

"Our soldiers have worked hard preparing for this mission." Said Murray, "after being here, I can clearly say that they are completely ready to accept this responsibility. All the hard work and training has paid off, and it marks a very important date in the Greywolf Brigade Combat Team's history.

Known as the Greywolf Brigade, the 3<sup>rd</sup> BCT's deployment is part of the largest rotation of American troops since World War II and marks the first time the Greywolf brigade has seen hostilities as a whole since it departure from South Vietnam in 1972.



**COL. John M. Murray**

**“Your Soldiers continue to perform their mission magnificently”**

**COL. John M. Murray**

## From the desk of Greywolf 6

I sincerely hope this newsletter finds you in good spirits and health and that it brings you a little closer to your loved ones serving here in Iraq. Your Soldiers continue to perform their mission magnificently. I spend a lot of time doing “battlefield circulation” and see them often – they are in good health and spirits – you should be extremely proud of them.

Undoubtedly, you have heard that the BCT has lost our first soldier this week. SSG Box of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 153<sup>rd</sup> Infantry was a dedicated, professional soldier in his actions at the 14<sup>th</sup> of July Bridge saved the lives of countless soldiers in his platoon. If you are looking for a hero – look no further. I ask

that you keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

All deployments are hard on Families and Soldiers but by every report I have you dealing with it as well, or better, than can be expected. I remain focused on our mission and taking care of your soldier and ask that you continue to help and lean on each other. Our Country is in the debt for the efforts and sacrifices of both you and your soldier and I remain proud to be a small part of our great team.

**JOHN M. MURRAY**  
Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding

## Command Sergeants Major Corner



**CSM Cris A. Sellards**

First, to the families and friends of the 3<sup>rd</sup> brigade Combat Team, let me say how much everyone here appreciates the tremendous support the preparation and deployment phase of this operation. I could not be prouder of our soldiers and the amount of sacrifices they and their families have made just getting here.

Second, we are here and in charge. The actions and professional manner everyone is a testament to the effort that went into the training and preparation of your soldiers. They are making a difference everyday in the lives of thousands of Iraqi families. They are staring in the face of danger each day without fail and without and

without faltering. They have embodied the spirit of polite, professional, and prepared.

Finally, we have taken some casualties but have been very good at protecting the force while getting the hard missions accomplished. Casualties have been light and we will do everything we can to keep it that way. Be proud of your soldiers and tell them at every opportunity. Each of them has faced their personal fears and has overcome them, accomplishing every mission given. We ask no more, you deserve no less. Thank you again for your sacrifice and support.

**CHRIS A. SELLARDS**  
Command Sergeant Major  
Greywolf 9

**Newsletter Produced by the 3rd BCT PAO**  
**Capt. Lennol Abasher**  
**Sgt. John Queen**



# F Troop lend their guns to highway security

By Spc. Jan Critchfield

**BAGHDAD**—Navigating one of the most dangerous routes in Baghdad every day, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team's "F" Troop, 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment has been tasked to escort 3<sup>rd</sup> BCT assets traveling to and from the Green Zone. An extremely important mission, "F" Troop has been up to the task.

Trained as scouts, very little of what "F" Troop has been doing in Iraq is typical of a scout's traditional skill set.

In fact, their job has become a great deal simpler: provide security to convoys that do not have the crew served weapons required to travel

the roads of Baghdad safely.

"Our main responsibility is to get them from point 'A' to point 'B' without anything happening, and if anything does happen, we react," said Staff Sgt. Aaron Hales, a squad leader who has been working convoy security since "F" Troop arrived in Iraq on March 29.

"We make contact [with the enemy] about eight or nine times within a week's span," said First Sgt. Kirby Carter. "Everybody's trained and motivated, and we're here to do the job we came here for," said Carter.



**ABOVE:** Soldiers of F Troop gather at the hood of a HUMVEE to discuss details and planning of an upcoming mission.



**LEFT:** Though it looks like any highway you might find in Florida, lined with palm trees and sand this highway at times can be very dangerous.



# Fat stacks of cash distributed in the Karkh neighborhood of Baghdad

Story and photos by Spc. Jan Critchfield

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE HEADHUNTER, Baghdad** – A comprehensive distribution of back pay for government workers took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April in the neighborhood of Karkh in central Baghdad, compensating for five payless months for employees of various government ministries.

Nearly 8,300 workers were approved for one of three stipends based on their normal level of pay, according to Dr. Sadoon al-Zubaudi, the individual responsible for coordinating the operation with The Central Bank of Iraq, the Coalition Provisional Authority, and the US Army.

A different day for distribution was designated for each of the various ministries to help keep the event under control.

“We’re well organized on paper, but on paper is not enough unless you have people who can control the crowds, because we’re [paying] thousands of people,” al-Zubaudi said.

That’s where Iraqi Civil Defense Corps and US soldiers came in, ensuring that the several billion Dinar would be distributed in an orderly manner.

Concertina wire directed employees through areas

where they were searched, checked off a list ensuring they got the proper amount, and finally to the location where they received their stipend. The concrete walls of FOB Headhunter protected the site from the surrounding neighborhood.

“Primarily, the security was accomplished by ICDC soldiers but we had their backs if anything were to get out of hand,” said Lt. Col. Thomas MacDonald, commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team’s 1/9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Battalion of FOB Headhunter. “The unit previous to us . . . had a riot break out in basically in the same area,” said MacDonald, “so we were just prepared to make sure that didn’t happen.”

The operation was a show of good faith by the Coalition Provisional Authority, MacDonald said. “I think there’s a lot of dissatisfaction [with the CPA] when [people] don’t get paid for the work they’ve done.”

“They’re trying to take care of people,” he added.

“This kind of work should be expanded,” said al-Zubaudi, “you have other departments that are out of pay, out of work.

“It would be a very happy thing for the people of Iraq to see that they are being cared for.”



An employee of the Ministry of Agriculture is given a stipend to make up for five payless months of work. A massive distribution site was organized at Forward Operating Base Headhunter to pay the nearly 8,300 employees approved for compensation.



## WARHORSE AT WORK

Wishing they had a Tommy-lift soldiers from 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry's, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry unload a heavy box from the back of an LMTV.

# Iraqi Government Information Center

## receives much needed office equipment from CPA

Story and photos by

Sgt. John Queen

**BAGHDAD** – The Government Information Center in Baghdad was plugged into a new era of technology April 20 with the delivery of more than \$10,000 worth of much needed office equipment provided by the Coalition Provisional Authority.

With assistance from the 478<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, the center received computers, monitors, printers, even a refrigerator, not mention other office must-haves to make their mission

easier and more affective.

In the shadow of an M1 Abrams just outside the Green Zone near Steeldragon FOB, the information center sits tucked away behind concertina wire in a renovated corner of a dilapidated medical center.

"This place use to be called the Arab Child Hospital," said an Iraqi interpreter. "I would come here for treatment as a child, but when Saddam Hussein was in power this hospital was used for the Republican Guard. You dare not come close to it"

According to the GIC

director, the building had been moderately damaged during the war. United States Army Civil Affairs units came in, helped repair it, and began using it as a place to help the Iraqi public to help themselves. Over the course of this past year its operations have transitioned from using an all Army staff to an Iraqi staff.

Now solely operated by an Iraqis, the GIC helps answer questions Iraqi citizens might have and handles issues or problems that arise in everyday life with Coalition Forces. These issues can range from problems

with corruption, to compensation for an accident with a coalition vehicle, to wanting to visit a relative being detained by the coalition.

"Each issue – we give a number that is put on a roster," explained the GIC director. "For instance, if someone wants to visit a relative at Abu Ghraib jail, we can tell them where to go or who to see according to the number on the roster."

He also said, many times people come to them with a problem concerning the coalition and want to see Ambassador Paul Bremer, the civil



# BCT provides much needed medical support for Iraqi village

Story and photos by Sgt. John Queen

**AL WADIYA, Iraq** – Medical troopers from the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division's 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team treated more than 500 Iraqi civilians for various ailments Tuesday at a temporary clinic set up in a small village on the outskirts of Baghdad.

Iraq, like many third-world countries with a plethora of small villages dotting their landscape, lacks the proper medical facilities to provide adequate care for its residents. To counter this problem and improve relations with the local population, the Army has instilled Medical Assistance Missions to help provide it's medical resources to the public.

"The village of Al Wadiya in the Tuwaitha district was identified as a village in need of our assistance," said Capt. Edgardo Ramirez, 3<sup>rd</sup> BCT medical operations officer. "A platoon leader from Charlie Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 161<sup>st</sup> Infantry, expressed concern about the health and welfare of the local populace."

The platoon leader, first lieutenant Ross Zarzechi had noticed a number of the village's children running around in bare feet.

"He saw that many of them had cuts on the bottoms of their feet," explained Ramirez. "He did what he could do with the platoon medics he had available, but it was just too much for them to handle. So his commander requested more help from the 3<sup>rd</sup> BCT."

Most of the children in the area had skin lesions and cuts on their feet. Many of them had no shoes and due to the dirt and dusty conditions they played in, the wounds would get infected.



At a hasty aid station in the dusty village of Al Wadiya on the outskirts of Baghdad, Cpl. Ben Seims of Wenatchee, Wash. assists Capt. James Wayne, 1st Cavalry Divisions 3rd Brigade Combat Teams surgeon, in bandaging a gunshot wound to an Iraqi civilians ankle. The Iraqi claims he had been shot by his brother during an argument.

Third brigade showed its support of the local populace by pulling a medical team together from its assets throughout the brigade. Medical personnel from Echo Company, 215<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion teamed up with other units in the 3<sup>rd</sup> BCT to form a Thirty-nine-man medical and security team for the mission. Troops from Charlie Company 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 161<sup>st</sup> Infantry and Iraqi Civil Defense Corps provided convoy and site security while medics and surgeons from 161<sup>st</sup> Infantry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry a 3<sup>rd</sup> BCT and Echo Company provided the care.

Soldiers from the team set up a hasty aid station made of camouflage nets, folding tables and a four-litter ambulance in a dusty meadow adjacent to a dirt soccer field in the

middle of the village. Before the team could get started, residents from the community circulated out of the alleyways and adobe style homes that make up the village to converge on them. Many of the children mobbed the soldiers, asking in broken English and hand gestures for bottles of water, sunglasses or anything else they could see that soldiers had. It was obvious that they were glad to see the team.

"They're excited to see us," said Pvt. Melissa Jennifer Hobart, a medic from Echo Company 215<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Medical Company. "Some of them are dressing in their best clothes just to come see us."

According to Capt. James

# Arkansas Guardsmen aid wounded Iraqi civilian

Story by Sgt. John Queen

**Baghdad** – Soldiers from the Arkansas Army National Guard came to the aid of a wounded Iraqi civilian late Saturday night in a neighborhood of Baghdad's Karradah district.

The soldiers, members of Bravo Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 153<sup>rd</sup> Infantry were on mounted patrol in the south-western section of the Karradah district when they heard shots being fired.

"We turned around to investigate the shots fired," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mark Martin. "We couldn't figure out where the shots had come from however. On further investigation we came upon a small crowd in the street gathered around a wounded man."

According to Martin, a man in his early 30's lay wounded in the street with a gunshot in his side, possibly a stray bullet from two volleys of automatic weapons fire heard by the patrol. "Apparently he and his brother were walking down the street when the shots were fired,"

"I don't know if they were fired upon or if he was just hit by a stray round," he added

The wounded mans brother was unharmed in the possible attack.

After assessing the situation and securing the area, Martin had the patrol's medical specialist, Spec. Audie Atkins, attend to the wounded man. Reacting quickly, Atkins was able to stop the bleeding by performing first aid and applying pressure dressing. Once the victim was stabilized he and his brother were then evacuated to the nearest hospital only to be turned away. The reason for this is unknown. Martin, unable to leave the brothers in peril, had his men take the two Iraqis to a public hospital outside of their designated patrol area. After arriving at the second hospital, the Arkansas guardsmen stayed with brothers making sure the wounded one was being treated before returning to their patrol.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 153<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment is one of two Army National Guard battalions assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry's 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team that arrived in Baghdad three weeks ago.

## Internet Café for Baghdad U

Brighter days and faster hookup for Baghdad U.

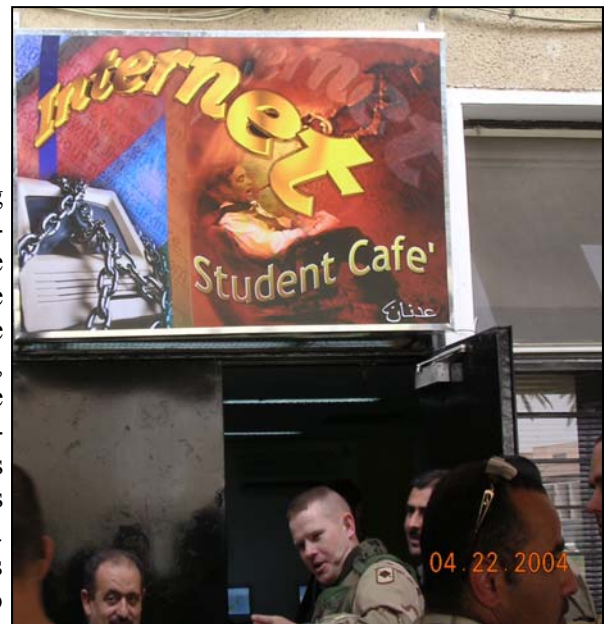
Story and photo by

**1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry UPAR**

**BAGHDAD** — Thursday April 22, 2004 marked the culmination of several months of collaboration between Baghdad University, contractors and coalition forces. The day was set aside for ribbon cuttings at the universities biology department and new internet café.

Months ago the biology department suffered from a deteriorating ceiling and poor lighting. The interior halls of the department were overflowing with graffiti. Today things are looking much brighter in the biology department with its new drop ceiling and improved lighting not to mention a new paint job. The project was one in a series to improve the overall efficiency of University.

Before students wanting to surf the Internet for information had a hard time finding a connection at the university. At the time the Internet café was outdated, almost nonexistent. There was a small café on campus, but the hourly rates prohibited most students from using the facility. University administrators brought their concerns to the coalition units in the area who aided in finding local contractors to smarten up and give a new lease of life the café. With the ribbon cutting Thursday, students are now be able to access a world. Thirty computers along with an up-to-date satellite connection allow for quicker downloads and faster surfing.



**LTC Penn talking to members of Baghdad University staff during the ribbon cutting ceremonies opening the new Internet Café for the students of the University.**



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the mission had started out as a pediatric assistance mission, but because of the number of people in need, many adults were seen as well. The main focus stayed on the children however.

A whole spectrum of pediatric and adult diseases and injuries were seen and treated by the medical team during the four hour mission, most were minor like

intestinal parasites, ear infections and asthma, a few however

would require follow-up visits said Wayne.

"A woman, seven months pregnant, is having problems with high blood pressure, a condition called Preeclampsia." Wayne said about one of the patients treated. He added, "Another is a man with a gunshot wound to his ankle. The entry wound looked like it was healing well but the exit wound isn't. It looks like he's going to lose the foot.

"I think we did some good here," Wayne also said. "The people here were very gracious and very thankful for having the

medical care that we delivered today. They were appreciative of what we were doing. There was absolutely no hostility."

"I think it was a good start," added Hobart. "I also think at the same time, coming out here shows that we really do care. We're here to help out the people of Iraq, especially the kids; they're the future of this country. They'll be the ones making the decisions in a few years."

Both Wayne and Hobart agreed that more could be done though, as toward the end of the mission supplies began to run out. "Next time," said Wayne. "We need to bring more toothbrushes, at least enough for 500 kids."

Ramirez summarized the overall mission as a success and added that the brigade will come back to follow-up on the village at a later date.



**Pvt. Melissa Holbert from Echo Company 215<sup>th</sup> FSB Take the vitals signs from an Iraqi woman during a medical assistance Mission In the remote village of Al Wadiya.**



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administrator of the coalition.

"We tell them you can't see Mr. Bremer. Then we direct them to the ministry they need to go to."

"Many times the Government Information Center will give the Iraqi citizens a point of contact that can actually help them with their particular problem or question" said Capt. Alexander Rasmussen, S-5 officer for 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. "If they can't handle the problem then they can direct the individuals to the convention center where the Iraqi Assistance Center is located. Its the next level up for bigger problems."

Although Iraqis run the GIC and it is for the most part a self-sufficient office, it still depends on help from the coalition to survive and prosper. One obstacle it faces is lack of funding.

"There is no Iraqi facility that can fund us," said the GIC director. "So for now we still depend on the Army to help us. For example, these (office) supplies, they will help us out greatly."



Surrounded by boxes of new office equipment, a GIC staff member removes the protective plastic cover from a computer tower verify and annotate it serial number of the GIC director standing nearby.

Teamed together, soldiers from both the Civil Affairs and Cavalry battalions helped provide security as well as the muscle to unloaded and move the various pieces of equipment from an LMTV parked outside in into the GIC for the waiting Iraqi staff. With an almost festive feel, many of the staff smiled and laughed with apprecia-

tion as each piece was put on the floor for inspection, while others, like the director, were more subdued as if pondering what the future has in store.

"We hope that in the future that all these issues will be run by Iraqis" the director said. "Because we don't want to always depend on the Americans."

**Lt. Col. Brian L. Dosa, commander of the 8th Engineer Battalion observes the Karadah Districts Sewer Superintendent, Jalal Nayef, sign a contract for work to be done on the districts sewer system connecting it to the main sewer treatment plant.**



# EYE ON BAGHDAD

